

entrance of sperm into the cervical canal. The important word, of course, is "uncomplicated" and he admits that where retroversion is complicated by other factors, such as adhesions, prolapsed ovaries, endometriomatous deposits, operative measures may be needed to improve the chances of conception.

The clinical papers also include one by Bernard Sandler on *The Relation of Nasopharyngeal Infection to Infertility*, and by Linton Snaith and Geoffrey Peberdy on *Some Psychiatric Aspects of Infertility*; their conclusions being that psychological factors are of major importance in cases of subfertility and may affect ovulation, cause tubal spasm and produce hostile conditions in the cervix. They consider, with plenty of backing from their clinical data, that reassurance is one of the most important and successful therapeutic measures and should always come first.

*New Oral Progestogens in Cases of Infertility* by Margaret C. N. Jackson. This paper records clinical observations on some sixty-five women under treatment with three of the recently produced oral progestogens; three cases of pseudo pregnancy are described, one with remarkable personality change. The histological changes in the endometrium under the influence of these hormones for different periods is described.

C. H. HARVEY  
M. C. N. JACKSON

Buxton, C. Lee, and Southam, Anna L. *Human Infertility*. London 1958. Cassell. Pp. x + 229. Price 57s. 6d.

THIS IS AN excellent presentation of a complex subject in a conveniently small compass. It is one of the most balanced and well informed manuals so far encountered and should certainly prove of value to doctors concerned with this subject and, particularly perhaps, to students who notoriously find it difficult to get systematic instruction. The need for assessing male and female factors is well sustained but inevitably, since the book is written by two gynaecologists, the emphasis is on the woman. Though the two short chapters on male infertility are sound enough, it is disappointing that the work of Hanley, Young, Davidson, Scott and Mack,

on varicocele as a possible factor in male subfertility is not even mentioned. The section on the Hormonal Factor in women is particularly helpful; it covers menstruation and its aberrations, diagnosis of ovulation, various frank endocrine disturbances which may affect fertility and includes a chapter on endometrial dating by Engle himself. The tubal factor is next dealt with quite briefly; it is interesting to note that the authors prefer an oily medium for hysterosalpingography though they do not state precisely what it is they use. There is a good section on the cervical factor in which A.I. is mentioned *en passant* and, finally, there are two short chapters on the psychological and sociological factors. Case histories are freely quoted, there are plenty of illustrations, figures and tables and an adequate index.

M. C. N. JACKSON

## GENETICS

Koch, P., Fischer, H. and Schumann, H. *Erbpathologie der landwirtschaftlichen Haustiere*. Berlin and Hamburg, 1957. Paul Parey. Pp. xv + 436, 215 illustrations. Price DM 52.

THE GENETICS of the laboratory rodents is easily accessible to the non-specialist through a number of books and monographs. The literature on the numerous inherited diseases and abnormalities of the large domestic animals, on the other hand, has not previously been brought together between the covers of a book and, until the present work appeared, was hopelessly scattered over many veterinary journals and the reports of agricultural experiment stations. The result is that few geneticists are fully aware of the wide range of conditions which exist, or how to get down to the original sources. For instance, some fifteen years ago, the reviewer was amazed at the sight of a small flock of four-horned sheep in Somerset, but found it difficult to locate the literature on the subject. He is now no less surprised to read that in a certain flock of sheep, five-legged lambs are born year after year and that hence even this kind of monstrosity is not without some genetic basis. However, it would be wrong to give the impression that the book under review is merely a collection of oddities. On the contrary, it is a systematic treatise on all

the known hereditary diseases and abnormalities of cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry, with numerous excellent illustrations and a very large bibliography. The book fills an obvious need and will be of great value not only to the veterinarians and animal breeders for whom it is primarily intended, but to geneticists in general for whom a large segment of the literature is now opened for the first time.

H. GRÜNEBERG

**Hammons, Helen G. (Editor).** *Heredity Counseling: A Symposium sponsored by the American Eugenics Society.* By 17 authors. New York, 1959. Paul B. Hoeber. Pp. xv + 112. Price \$4.00.

THE AMERICAN EUGENICS SOCIETY have performed a valuable service in calling together this symposium of American and Canadian experts on genetic counselling.

The symposium fell into two parts, on genetics in medical practice and on the principles of heredity counselling. The first section includes papers on genetics in paediatrics, cardiovascular diseases, dentistry and public health nursing. The speakers' aim in these papers was to provide illustrations of the action of genetic factors and not to be comprehensive. A paper of special interest was that by C. J. Witkop on dentistry. Dr. Witkop and his colleagues have carried out an enormous survey of dental defects in school children, which have added greatly to our knowledge of dental genetics.

The papers on the principles of genetic counselling show a satisfactory measurement of agreement. Dr. Dice made the point that the place for a genetic clinic should usually be in a teaching hospital, with access to the other services of the hospital. He considered that the staff should include a physician and a geneticist, as well as a technician and a social worker. In this country, where human genetics has largely developed from within the medical profession, and not outside it, the geneticist and physician would usually be the same person. There is some difference of opinion, implied rather than overt, whether it is sufficient to give patients the genetic risks alone and leave them to make any decisions. Dr. Kallman, whose field of practice is psychiatry, and who therefore has to deal with a specially sensitive group, stressed

that the counsellor must have the gift of sympathy with the patients asking his advice, and be able to tell them the risks in such a way as to disturb them as little as possible. He considers that the counsellor may need to help the patients in their decision whether to have children or not, and to help them adjust to a childless marriage.

Genetic or Heredity Clinics will grow more numerous in America, Great Britain and the continent of Europe. With improved living standards, an ever-increasing proportion of illness and defect will be largely genetically determined, and the need for such clinics will become even more apparent. It is important that steps should now be taken to train the men and women to staff these future clinics.

C. O. CARTER

### HEREDITY

**Leighton-Boyce, J. A. S. L.** *Smiths the Bankers, 1658-1958.* London, 1958. National Provincial Bank. Pp. xiii + 337. Produced for private circulation only.

THIS WORK, in handsome type on high-quality paper, and illustrated with many plates, some of which are in colour, is concerned with the history of Smiths' Banks. As 1958 marks not only the bi-centenary of the opening of the family's London banking house but also the ter-centenary of the commencement of business by Thomas Smith of Nottingham, such a work is entirely appropriate. As these Banks lost their separate identity through mergers in 1902, it is also appropriate that the text should be devoted mainly to the early days.

To the majority of members of the Eugenics Society the history of banking is of no special concern. What is of interest, however, is the account of the Smith family, who would seem fitted to qualify for the attentions of Mr. Paul Bloomfield if he were writing further on the subject of *Uncommon People*—those few persons who contribute so much of value to the community and whose descendants go on doing so for generation after generation. Thomas Smith, the founder of the banking connection, came from the hamlet of Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Nottinghamshire, and was the son of a modest land-owner who lived there from